



City Contact



A Quarterly Publication from the City of Mound

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Neighbors,

As we usher in the holiday season, there are many things to be thankful for! The City of Mound has seen an uptick in development interest and many exciting projects are underway.

First, after many years of preparation and hard work, a revised approach to development in the Harbor District allowed the City to balance the need to create additional tax value with a desire to preserve community spaces in the heart of downtown. Lifestyle Communities, LLC, closed on the sale of the 2.4 acres on the west end of the downtown greenspace and will develop a 52-unit, active-adult, housing cooperative, that will be referred to as "Artesa." A pre-sales gallery in the RPG Commerce Place Shopping Center will open soon and all residents are encouraged to find out more about the advantages of the cooperative model compared to a conventional condominium. Similarly, the City Council authorized a planning study that is underway to gain public input on what improvements are desired/appropriate for the remaining 3.5 acres of land that will optimize the current amenities including the harbor, docks, Andrews Sisters' and Dakota Trails.

Other new development activities include Inland Development Partners' addition of 18 attractive, market-rate, rental townhomes at the Wilshire and Tuxedo intersection -- a piece of land that has been inactive for decades.

Reinvestment is also happening at locations including Stonegate Plaza who renewed their parking lot and is completing the build-out of the new "Hibachi Daruma" restaurant. 3Soteric Life continues to partner with complementary businesses and "Adventure Loot", a new game shop, opened next door. RPG Commerce Place has been busy with renewal and will be home to the Westonka Hockey Association's off-ice training facility. That, in addition to Anytime Fitness, should open up opportunities for complementary businesses. Domino's Pizza continues to invest in its new location with parking lot and landscape improvements and the "Arts" has made its debut on Shoreline Drive. Lastly, the owners of Twin Cities Closets bought the old Threshold/Bank building at 2339 Commerce and have already repainted it as they envision what the space will ultimately be used for.

The City Council and Staff are also focused on renewal as we plan for needed sidewalk repair/replacement in the downtown, work with Hennepin County to improve the safety of the Dakota Regional Trail crossing, upgrade the east entrance monument sign, and determine the next phase of the Surfside Park & Beach improvements.

So let's give thanks to our businesses by shopping local this holiday season. They are truly the champions of Mound! May you and your family have a very Merry Christmas and peaceful new year!

Respectfully,

Ray Salazar

Mayor, City of Mound

NOV DEC JAN
2021/22



Mayor
Ray Salazar

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Maintaining community pride takes all of us!

The changing of the leaves, cooler temps, and imminent arrival of snow drive instinctive behavior for not just the squirrels and geese, but in people, too! We switch summer wardrobes in our closet for warmer winter garments, blow out our irrigation, put up the lawn mower, dig out the snow shovel, clean out the garage to make room for the car, and winterize our boats and RV's.

In all these changes and movements, we have an opportunity to identify items we no longer use or enjoy, things that don't work, and stuff that has deteriorated beyond use. All too often, however, we simply look past them for yet another season. The City depends on the collective community to maintain a positive image as the majority of property is privately held.

This fall and spring, consider the impact unused stuff may have on those around us, particularly those items stored outside that may impact a neighbor's view or the general appearance of the community.

Hennepin County has ample resources on their <https://hennepin.us/choose-to-reuse> website with ideas on how to dispose of or reuse not just functional items, but construction materials and junk vehicles through their many salvage business resources. Senior Community Services also helps to fund home maintenance activities for seniors needing assistance. The cities of Mound and Minnetrista host a Spring Clean-up Day in early May and Hennepin County has drop-off sites open year-round. If you buy a Bagster, please have it collected promptly and maybe even invite neighbors to throw in and share the cost. ***You will notice the difference and, better yet, MAKE a difference!***



Consider serving as an election judge for the 2022 midterm elections! Election judges administer voting procedures to ensure a fair and accessible election for all eligible voters. The City of Mound is always looking for qualified voters to act as election judges. Requirements include: must be eligible to vote in Minnesota, must be able to read, write, and speak English, cannot be a spouse, parent, child, or sibling of any election judge serving in the same precinct, and cannot be a candidate or the spouse, parent, child, or sibling of any candidate on the ballot in that precinct.

Election judges go through a two-hour training and are compensated for their service. The City is seeking judges able to help with early voting and all judges must be able to work on the Aug. 9 primary election day and November 8 general election day — full-day shifts are from 6 am to approx. 9 pm, with 1/2 day shifts available. Contact City Clerk Kevin Kelly at asc@cityofmound.com or via phone at (952) 472-0613 for more information.

Have you visited the City website recently? Information on agendas and upcoming meetings is available at www.cityofmound.com by clicking on the "Government" tab and scrolling to the "Mayor and Council" line for Council/HRA and "Advisory Commissions" for Planning, Parks, and Docks and Commons. Also get the latest on the status of the water system initiatives, notices on public hearings, and essential information every resident should know!

City Hall Hours

November through April

Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

May through October

Monday - Thursday 7:30 am - 5 pm
Friday 7:30 am - 11:30 am

www.cityofmound.com

City Contacts

General Information 952-472-0600
www.cityofmound.com

Planning & Building 952-472-0607

Police Department 952-249-4700
After Hours Dispatch 952-258-5321
911 Emergency

Public Works 952-472-0603
After Hours Dispatch 952-258-5321

ICE SAFETY REMINDERS:

New ice is usually stronger than old ice. Four inches of clear, newly formed ice may support one person on foot, while a foot or more of old, partially thawed ice may not.

Ice seldom freezes uniformly. It may be a foot thick in one location and only an inch or two just a few feet away.

The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process. The extra weight also reduces how much weight the ice sheet can support. Also, ice near shore can be weaker than ice that is farther out.

Booming and cracking ice isn't necessarily dangerous. It only means that the ice is expanding and contracting as the temperature changes.

Schools of fish or flocks of waterfowl can also adversely affect the relative safety of ice. The movement of fish can bring warm water up from the bottom of the lake.



Emerald ash borer discovered in Mound. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) confirmed an emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation in the City of Mound in August of 2021 at a private residence. There are several things residents should look for when checking for emerald ash borer, including: be sure you've identified an ash tree, look for woodpecker damage, and check for bark cracks. If you feel your ash tree may be infested with EAB, contact a tree care professional, or the MDA at arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us or 888-545-6684.

The biggest risk of spreading EAB comes from people unknowingly moving firewood or other ash products harboring larvae. Minnesota has the largest population of ash trees, so please educate yourself on the risks. For more information on emerald ash borer, go to www.mda.state.mn.us/eab or see the City's website.

ASH TREE IDENTIFICATION

Across the U.S., ash trees (*fraxinus spp.*) are under attack by the emerald ash borer (EAB), an invasive insect that attacks and kills all native species of ash trees. The information below will help you properly identify ash trees.



Ash trees have an opposite branching pattern, meaning that branches are directly across from each other.



Ash seeds are paddle shaped and occur in clusters. Seeds will typically remain on trees until late fall or early winter.



Ash leaves are compound and typically consist of 5-11 leaflets. The edges of the leaflets may be smooth or toothed.



On mature ash trees, the bark has a distinct pattern of diamond-shaped ridges. Younger ash trees have smoother bark.

Background photo: Keith Kanoti, Maine Forest Service, Bugwood.org. Ash photos: Nebraska Forest Service.



On September 11, the Westonka History Museum celebrated its post-COVID re-opening with a history talk on water skiing by Tom Skramstad, an Open House at the museum, and door prizes for the first 25 visitors!!

Tom shared his research on the origin of the sport of water skiing, and the creation of the first skis. He shared fascinating details of the lives of those early skiers. Included in his talk were slides of skiers becoming performers, building jumps in Cook's Bay in front of the Casino, and later slides of the crowds of people lining Lake Harriet to watch the skiers create pyramids and other feats of skill and daring!

To watch this talk or any of the other 100+ history videos created by our history museum, often with the help of Lake Minnetonka Cable Commission, visit our website's pull down menu: "History videos" at westonkahistoricalsociety.org. The Museum is located in the Mound Centennial Building at 5341 Maywood Road and is open Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm and by appointment.

DAKOTA REGIONAL TRAIL CROSSING UPDATE

At the June 8, 2021 regular Council Meeting, the City Council approved the final report of a study of Shoreline Drive pedestrian corridor improvements that primarily focused on the vicinity of Auditor's Road and Belmont Road, including the Dakota Regional Trail crossing. The Council supported the findings of the study that ranked and prioritized pedestrian safety and directed Staff to share the results with Hennepin County and Three Rivers Park District.

While multiple alternatives were analyzed, the recommendation is to retain the existing Dakota Regional Trail crossing alignment and add Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB), both overhead and at the street level, at Auditor's Road to alert drivers when pedestrians/bikers are crossing. In addition, the turn lanes in and out of Auditor's Road will be eliminated which will narrow the amount of pavement, and a larger central median for safer crossing will be added. A safer trail crossing at Commerce Blvd. is also under consideration. Hennepin County has signed on to the Shoreline/Auditor's Road recommended improvements which will be completed in conjunction with the mill and overlay scheduled for 2023.



Harbor District Park Improvements Master Plan Update



STUDY AREA
Approximate area for
Harbor District Park Improvements

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Concept Plan survey this summer! Feedback is being analyzed and refined concepts will be presented to the Parks Commission on December 9th and the City Council after the first of the year.

The timing of improvements will be coordinated with Lifestyle Communities development of the cooperative housing development in order to ensure the most efficient mobilization and staging of construction.

Look for further updates on the city website!

Water Treatment Feasibility Study Update—The City has been focused on aligning resources for the estimated \$24M project. On October 28, the City participated in the MN Senate Capital Investment Committee's Bonding Projects site tour and will do the same with the House Capital Investment Committee on November 18. These are opportunities to provide an up-close view of our project and the unique financial challenges that a \$24-million treatment project would impose on our residents. These are first steps in a long process that begins as the Legislature comes into session after the first of the year and typically ends in the early summer when the State approves the biennial (every-two-years) budget process.



Volunteer Fire Fighters Staffing Update

Mound Fire welcomes four new firefighters that recently completed all of the required firefighter and emergency medical training to meet the department's recognized standards to become State Certified as Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Hazmat and Emergency Medical Responder (EMR).

The completion of Minnesota State Certification is a requirement of all firefighters employed by the Mound Fire Department. Congratulations to Travis Pounder, Derek Beiningen, Saul Calderon and Michael Jabs!

Mound Fire has a well trained staff of 41, ready to serve and protect our community!

Fundraising Updates

Mound Fire Department, the Auxiliary, and the Mound Fire Relief Association are extremely grateful for the volunteers who put in countless hours to raise funds for equipment and training needs and to those businesses and community members who support the events! The COVID-19 pandemic has required flexibility, but thanks to ongoing public support, we have been able to fill many funding gaps. We look forward to returning to *all* of our traditional family-friendly events in 2022!

Adopt a Fire Hydrant this winter!

Mound Fire Chief Greg Pederson asks that you please take time to clear fire hydrants of snow in your neighborhood. Please help keep hydrants accessible throughout the winter so we can be much more efficient and timely in the event of an emergency. If Fire Fighters have to locate and dig out hydrants, our response time is greatly hindered.



If you are unable to clear the snow from a fire hydrant in your neighborhood, please contact the Mound Fire Department administrative office at moundfire@moundfire.com or 952-472-3555, and we will arrange to have staff clear the snow from the hydrant. Thank you for your assistance!

It's that time of year again! Change Your Clock, Change Your Batteries™!

When Daylight savings time ends on Sunday, November 7th, and you change your clocks back one hour, please change your batteries in all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors that do not have 10 year lithium batteries. It's also important to check the installation date of your detectors and replace any detector over 10 years old, which is considered its end of useful life. The National Fire Protection Association reports that 71% of smoke alarms which failed to operate had missing, disconnected or dead batteries so be proactive!!

The Mound Fire Department has 9-volt batteries supplied by *Energizer* available to residents for free. Stop by our offices soon as quantities are limited.



The Westonka Community and Commerce (WCC) Annual Tree Lighting event is scheduled for **Saturday, November 20th.**

The event will blend the traditional downtown event with last year's View Santa Tour with a fire truck parade throughout the community. Santa's entourage will leave the Fire Department at 4:30, tour the neighborhoods, and culminate with the Tree Lighting at Veterans Park planned for approximately 7:15pm. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be on hand to share hot cocoa and cookies. More information on estimated times for neighborhood tours to be determined.

We remind you that **winter parking restrictions are in effect November 15 to April 15** so there is no parking between 2:00 am -6:00 am on City streets. Please keep fire hydrants, mailboxes and house numbers free and clear of snow and debris in case of an emergency. Also, a friendly reminder to not move snow out of driveways and into the street.

The Police Department reminds you to lock your cars, garages and homes. In the past several years, criminals have learned to access your home via the garage door opener in your vehicle. Criminals are becoming more bold and we have seen a modest increase in residential occupied burglaries in which criminals access your home at night via the unlocked vehicle in the driveway. If your vehicle has a tracking capability, we also would suggest those subscriptions be used to help us get your vehicle back sooner.

Keeping the community safe and welcoming is always our top priority!

Police Chief's Corner



Dock Program Application Period January 1st through February 28

- Renewal applications will be sent to current program licensees by January 1st
- Waitlist—print an application from cityofmound.com and return with \$20 fee by February 28th to renew your spot or to be added for the first time
- Dock program fees for the 2022 season:
 - > Mound Multiple Slip Fee \$500 (this includes the LMCD fee and covers the increased cost of the in/out service)
 - > Regular dock sites: \$350 for first boat, \$150 for second boat (includes LMCD fee)
 - > Temporary visiting dockage permit \$150 for 10 days—limit to one per season per site
- Canoe/kayak storage rack spots available....Questions? Call Kevin Kelly at (952)472-0613 or email asc@cityofmound.com

MOUND UNION CEMETERY

The City Council established a subcommittee consisting of Council Members Paula Larson and Sherrie Pugh to explore options for the next phase of cemetery improvements.

Based on the trend that the vast majority of internments since 2017 have been ash burials, the City will be exploring a combination of in-ground plots and a granite above-ground 'Ossuary' similar to the one recently installed at Eden Prairie's Pleasant Hill Cemetery for the last section of the cemetery, all of which will take time to develop.

In the interim, concepts to beautify the entry will be explored.

Republic Services contract for curbside single-sort recycling renewed

Republic Services (formerly Allied Waste) has been the City's curbside recycling vendor since moving to single sort carts in 2007. Much has changed in the recycling industry since that time, mainly the intense price pressure because the after-market demand for recycled materials has dried up, particularly from China.

The approved contract is for a 5-year flat rate with an optional 5-year extension *using the existing carts* and continuing to replace carts as needed due to cracks, damaged wheels, etc. Republic Services is offering residents an option to pay a \$35 one-time fee to change out a cart for cleaning and residents can contact Republic via email to customerfirst@republicservices.com or by calling (952)941-5174 for more information on the Cart Replacement Program. A credit card payment from the resident will be taken at the time of request.

Republic has been a very responsive vendor when it comes to addressing customer service concerns/missed pick-ups, as well as has a strong working knowledge of Mound streets and routes, some of which can be quite challenging. The City currently charges \$4 per month for recycling services that include the curbside single-sort service, the Mulch Store leaf drop-off service and annual spring clean-up day. The rate will increase to \$5.25 per month to cover the cost of the new contract. Any questions on these changes can be directed to Administrative Services Director Catherine Pausche at (952)472-0633 or via email at catherinepausche@cityofmound.com.

Recycling contamination is a concern in our community.

Placing the below items in your recycling container contaminates other recyclables, causing the entire load to end up in the landfill.

Help us keep our recycling stream clean!



#1
No food, liquid or diapers in the container.
All containers are to be **Empty. Clean. Dry™** before recycling.



#2
No plastic bags of any kind in the recycling container.
DO NOT BAG RECYCLABLES!



#3
No hangers in the recycling container.
NO HOSES, WIRES, CHAINS or ELECTRONICS.



#4
No clothes (or linens) in the recycling container.
Use donation programs to get rid of clothing or linens.

Visit RecyclingSimplified.com today to become a better recycler!





The City of Mound owns and operates Harbor Wine & Spirits liquor store. HWS opened at its current location in 2003, and this approach enables the City to use the profits generated to reduce the property tax levy and help fund essential city services like our many park amenities and major equipment. Harbor Wine & Spirits contributed \$200,000 to tax relief in 2021 and will contribute \$250,000 in 2022!

As always, thank you for shopping locally and thank you for your patronage and patience as we do our best to provide exceptional service and selection during these times of limited availability of many popular products.

Every day specials include 15% off case discounts on wine and spirits and a 10% off senior discount on all alcoholic products on Fridays. Check out our website for other specials and information on these special events:

- Annual Repeal of Prohibition Sale 15% off ALL alcohol on Saturday December 4, 2021
- Annual Anniversary Sale, Rare Whiskey Release Event and Westonka Rotary Fundraiser on Friday, February 14, 2022



NEW! Check out our new app on UNTAPPD for craft brew trends and updates!

Stop by and see us for all of your entertainment needs.

Prost! Ron, Kyle and all the friendly staff at Harbor Wine and Spirits

<https://business.untappd.com/embeds/iframes/36691/142293>



Harbor
Wine & Spirits

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2135 Commerce Blvd Mound, MN

harborwinespirits.ci

MINNESOTA CRAFT BEER

IMPORTED CRAFT BEER

OKTOBERFEST 2021

CRAFT CIDER

CRAFT BEER

MINNESOTA CRAFT BEER

Drink local. Drink fresh.
Updated on Sep 30, 5:05 PM CDT

Beer Menu



Avant Pilsner - German

5% ABV • 35 IBU • Insight Brewing Company • Minneapolis, MN • ●●●●●●●●

We've put a creative spin on craft pilsners by dry-hopping this one with New Zealand Wakatu ... [More Info](#)



Loretta's Lager - Dark

5.6% ABV • 24 IBU • Indeed Brewing Company • Minneapolis, MN • ●●●●●●●●

Community Notification System

This system sends telephone calls, text messages, emails (based on subscriber preferences) and posts to social media channels to inform residents of road closures, watermain breaks, hydrant flushing, policies under consideration by the City Council, seasonal parking reminders and more!

Registering for **RAVE** is quick, easy, and FREE! Your Rave subscription is protected data and will not be sold. Please sign-up by visiting the city website and clicking the **RAVE** icon or by contacting Field Officer Andy Drilling at 952-472-0605.





City of Mound
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Jason Holt
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Harbor
Wine & Spirits

2135 COMMERCE BOULEVARD • MOUND • 952.472.0648

ANNUAL END OF PROHIBITION SALE
Saturday, December 4th, 2021
10am-8pm
15% OFF ALL BOOZE ALL DAY!
Sampling Noon - 8pm! Amazing Prizes!

ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Mound Meeting Calendar

- **City Council** meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 pm
- **HRA** meets before regular Council meetings on an as-needed basis
- **Planning Commission** meets the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 pm
- **Parks and Open Space Commission** meets the second Thursday of the month beginning at 7 pm on an as-needed basis
- **Docks and Commons Commission** meets the third Thursday of the month beginning at 7 pm on an as-needed basis



Nov. 25 & 26 Thanksgiving—
City Hall Closed

Dec. 14—Final City Council Meeting of 2021

Dec. 23 & 24 Christmas— City Hall Closed

Dec. 30 & 31 New Years—City Hall Closed

Jan. 17 MLK Holiday—City Hall Closed

The City of Mound, through teamwork and cooperation, provides, at a reasonable cost, quality services that respond to the needs of all citizens, fostering a safe, attractive, and flourishing community.